CLAIMS

We claim:

1   1.   A method, comprising:

2   arranging for a first user to monitor a remote location;

3   transmitting to the first user, while the user is supposed to be monitoring

4   the remote location, a test image of the remote location, the test image being an

5   image of a fabricated breach of security of the remote location, without informing

6   the first user that the breach of security is fabricated;

7   determining whether the first user recognizes the breach of security in the

8   test image; and

9   determining an attentiveness of the first user based on whether the first user

10   recognizes the breach of security in the test image.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   penalizing the first user if it is determined that the first user does not

3   recognize the breach of security in the test image.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, wherein penalizing the first user comprises:

2   causing a rating associated with the first user to be lowered.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, further comprising:

2   causing a communication link between a device of the first user and

3   another device facilitating the monitoring of the remote location to be disabled as a

4   consequence of the lowered rating.

1   5.   The method of claim 2, wherein penalizing the first user comprises:

2   preventing the first user from monitoring remote locations in the

3   future.

1   6.   The method of claim 2, wherein penalizing the first user comprises:

2   preventing a payment for the monitoring of the remote location

3   from being provided to the first user.

1   7.   The method of claim 2, wherein penalizing the first user comprises:

2   lowering a pay rate based on which the first user is to be paid for the

3   monitoring of the remote location.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the first user

2   recognizes the breach of security comprises:

3   determining whether the first user responds to the test image within

4   a predetermined period of time.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the first user

2   recognizes the apparent breach of security comprises:

3   determining a response of the first user to the test image; and

4   determining whether the response indicates that the first user

5   recognizes the apparent breach of security of the remote location.

1   10.   The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the first user

2   recognizes the apparent breach of security comprises:

3   determining whether the first user notifies a predetermined entity of the

4   apparent breach of security of the remote location.

1   11.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   storing an indication of whether the first user recognized the

3   apparent breach of security of in the test image.

1   12.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   arranging for a second user to monitor the remote location if it is

3   determined that the first user did not recognize the apparent breach of security of

4   the remote location.

1   13.   The method of claim 12, wherein arranging for a second user comprises:

2   arranging for a second user to replace the first user, thereby arranging for

3   the second user to monitor the remote location instead of the first user monitoring

4   the remote location.

1   14.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   determining whether to transmit the test image to the first user.

1   15.   The method of claim 14, wherein determining whether to transmit the test

2   image to the first user comprises:

3   determining a duration of time since a previous test image of a fabricated

4   apparent breach of security of the remote location was transmitted to the first user;

5   and

6   determining whether the duration of time is at least equal to a minimum

7   duration of time.

1   16.   The method of claim 1, wherein arranging for a first user to monitor a

2   remote location comprises:

3   obtaining, at a server and from a sensor located at a remote location, an

4   image of the remote location; and

5   forwarding the image to a device associated with the first user.

1   17.   An apparatus comprising:

2   a processor; and

3   a storage device that stores a program for directing the processor;

4   the processor being operative with the program to:

5   perform the method of claim 1.

1   18.   A computer readable medium encoded with instructions for directing a

2   processor to:

3   perform the method of claim 1.

1   19.   A method, comprising: /

2   establishing communication link between a server and a device of a user;

3   arranging for the user to monitor a remote location via the communication

4   link by transmitting images of the remote location to the device of the user during a

5   monitoring session;

6   testing, during the monitoring session, attentiveness of the user by

7   transmitting to the device of the user at least one of a plurality of test images of the

8   remote location,

9   each test image being an image of a respective fabricated breach of

10   security of the remote location;

11   determining whether the user responds appropriately to the at least one test

12   image;

13   penalizing the user if the user does not respond appropriately to the at least

14   one test image; and

15   causing, based on the user's performance during the monitoring session, a

16   payment to be provided to the user.

1   20.   The method of claim 19, wherein testing comprises:

2   transmitting, at random intervals during the monitoring session, at least one

3   test image,

4   wherein the at least one test image transmitted at a given interval is

5   of one of the fabricated breaches of security of the remote location.

1   21.   The method of claim 19, wherein testing comprises:

2   transmitting, periodically during the monitoring session, at least one test

3   image,

4   wherein the at least one test image transmitted at a given time is of

5   one of the fabricated breaches of security of the remote location.

1   22.   The method of claim 19, wherein penalizing the user comprises:

2   causing a rating associated with the user to be lowered.

1   23.   The method of claim 22, further comprising:

2   causing the communication link to be disabled.

1   24.   The method of claim 19, wherein penalizing the user comprises:

2   preventing the user from monitoring remote locations in the future.

1   25.   The method of claim 19, wherein penalizing the user comprises:

2   preventing the payment for the monitoring session from being

3   provided to the user.

1   26.   The method of claim 19, wherein penalizing the user comprises:

2   lowering a pay rate based on which the user is to be paid for the

3   monitoring session.

1   27.   The method of claim 19, wherein penalizing the user comprises:

2   lowering a pay rate based on which the user is to be paid for future

3   monitoring sessions.

1   28.   An apparatus, comprising:

2   a processor; and

3   a storage device that stores a program for directing the processor;

4   the processor being operative with the program to:

5   perform the method of claim 19.

1   29.   A computer readable medium encoded with instructions for directing a

2   processor to:

3   perform the method of claim 19.